

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, April 2, 2013

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:03p.m. Executive Session, Mr. Green called the meeting to order. Mrs. Winters made a motion to go into executive session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under General Laws of Rhode Island §42-46-5(a) (1) Interview Director of Student Services (a) (2) Teacher Negotiations, H.Carr Claim. Mr. Sommer seconded the motion, which passed 6-0. Mr. Green suspended executive session at 7:03 p.m.

Those in attendance were Mr. David Green, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair; Mr. Jack Sommer; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Ms. Carolyn Mark; Mr. Clark Smith; and Mrs. Susan Records (arrived at 6:14p.m.). Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration; and Attorney Matthew Oliverio were also in attendance.

7:07p.m. Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

The meeting was already in session. Mr. Green announced there was a unanimous vote (7-0) taken in executive session.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

III. Public Comments

Mrs. Chris Perrett read a statement regarding a language survey that she conducted two years ago. The survey questioned students as to their preference of language. The results showed Spanish as the first choice and Mandarin the second choice. Mrs. Perrett has met with Dr. Mercurio and U.R.I. to explore options for a Mandarin program. So far there is not a pilot in place. Mrs. Perrett asked the School Committee not to forget the results and offered to present her findings again if necessary.

IV. Recognitions

a. Cole Chess Team – First Place Winners-2013 R.I. Scholastic State Chess Championship

The following students were recognized by the School Committee: Ryan Perrett, Sameer Khanbhai, Robert Hamann, Wyatt DePriest, Eitan Vilker, Owen Petito, Will O'Connell, Jared Page, and Andrew Zesk.

V. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular and executive for March 19, 2013

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the regular and executive minutes for March 19, 2013.

VI. Superintendent's Report

So far 333 parents/community members and 163 staff members have taken part in the 2014-15 calendar survey. The survey was sent out

after the last School Committee meeting and will close at midnight on April 5, 2013. Dr. Mercurio will attend the Rhode Island Athletic Director award ceremony on Thursday at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick. EGHS was voted school of the year by the Rhode Island Athletic Directors' Association. The EGEF dinner will take place this Saturday night at NYLO hotel. The information can be found on the EGSD website under the EGEF link. The Department of Education and the Governor's office has shared the R.I. Schoolhouse Assessment report. The report has not been looked at yet with great detail, but Channel 10 has already expressed interest in hearing how Cole has changed the thinking of maintaining/supporting infrastructure.

VII. School Committee Concerns

Dr. Gifford would like to follow-up on Mrs. Perrett's language proposal. She would like this item on the April 23rd agenda. Dr. Gifford would also like to discuss drafting a letter in support of Commissioner Gist as her tenure winds down.

VIII. Action Items

a. Home School Request- Grade 4

There was discussion regarding whether the request fulfills the requirements of the district's Home School Policy. Dr. Gifford discussed her concerns regarding consistency and did not feel the request fulfilled the requirements. Mr. Sommer asked Dr. Mercurio

questions regarding the curriculum and whether he is satisfied with the request. Dr. Mercurio explained that he reached out to the parent for clarification and is satisfied, but is willing to table the request pending further information. Dr. Gifford read the Home School Policy to the Committee. Ms. Mark asked if the verbal conversation can be documented. On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Ms. Mark, the Committee voted 6-1 to approve the request. Dr. Gifford voted against the request. Mr. Green asked Dr. Mercurio to add the contents of the conversation to the file for clarity.

IX. Subcommittee Reports

a. Technology Advisory Committee

Dr. Mercurio gave a summary of the meeting that took place on March 22, 2013. The committee was informed that 1:1 technology was not included in the 2014 budget and was also brought up to speed on the funds included in the budget. Mr. Thibodeau asked the committee to rethink video content due to the high levels of usage. The district may be able to use a third party vendor to manage it. Mr. Fazio works for Microsoft and discussed the possibility of coaching at the elementary and middle levels. There is no cost and the district can build skill levels for students and staff. The next meeting will be scheduled the end of April/early May to revisit these topics and discuss the next steps. Mrs. Records asked if the meetings can be done via conference call. Attorney Oliverio will check on this. Dr. Mercurio suggested holding the meetings in the evening rather than in the morning.

X. Discussion

a. Strategic Planning

Dr. Mercurio and Mr. Green have investigated several providers to facilitate strategic planning. So far the fees have been extremely high. The district has set aside \$2,500 to facilitate the process. The Committee discussed reaching out to their professional contacts to see if there is interest and expertise. Dr. Mercurio and Mr. Green will explore this possibility.

XI. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted 7-0 to resume executive session at 7:47 p.m.

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO
SECRETARY**